Applicant: Bazan, et al. Attorney's Docket No.: 16622-006001 / DX0903K1

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 21-31 are pending. Claims 22-24 are being amended, and new claim 32 is being added.

After the amendments, claims 21-32 will be pending.

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-20. (Canceled)

- 21. (Previously presented) An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule having SEQ ID NO: 3; and
- (b) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to the complement of the polynucleotide having SEQ ID NO: 3 under conditions of about 100 mM salt and 60°C, wherein said polypeptide is capable of binding an IL-B50 receptor.
- 22. (Currently amended) A purified IL-B50 polypeptide wherein the polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 4, or a fragment thereof, capable of binding IL-B50 receptors.
- 23. (Currently amended) A purified IL-B50 polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least about 80% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, or a fragment thereof, wherein the polypeptide is capable of binding IL-B50 receptors.
- 24. (Currently amended) A purified human IL-B50 polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to amino acids 1 through 131 of SEQ ID NO: 4, or a fragment thereof, wherein the polypeptide is capable of binding an IL-B50 receptor.

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25. (Withdrawn) A method of stimulating lymphoid proliferation, comprising incubating lymphoid cells with the polypeptide of claim 22, 23, or 24.

- 26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25, further comprising incubating the lymphoid cells with IL-7.
- 27. (Withdrawn) A method of stimulating lymphopoietic development comprising incubating progenitor cells with the polypeptide of claim 22, 23, or 24.
- 28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein the progenitor cells are bone marrow-derived stem cells.
- 29: (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28, further comprising incubating the bone marrow-derived stem cells with IL-7.
- 30. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 22 or 23, wherein the polypeptide is a fusion protein.
- 31. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 30 wherein the fusion protein comprises an Fc domain.
- 32. (New) A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 22, 23, or 24, and a physiologically acceptable diluent or carrier.